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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

## **Somalia – Complex Emergency**

Situation Report #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

July 15, 2009

*Note: The last situation report was dated June 17, 2009.*

### **BACKGROUND**

Since 1991, widespread violence, endemic poverty, recurrent droughts, and floods have generated a complex emergency in Somalia. From December 2006 to January 2009, fighting between the Somalia Transitional Federal Government (TFG), backed by Ethiopian forces, and armed militias opposed to the TFG led to a further deterioration in humanitarian conditions. Following January 2009 Ethiopian troop withdrawals, conflict between armed militia groups in Somalia continues to displace populations and limit access to affected areas. As a result, nearly 500,000 Somali refugees have fled the country and more than 1.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), including long-term IDPs and individuals displaced by increased fighting since February 2007, remain uprooted within Somalia.

In January 2009, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) reported that 3.2 million people require humanitarian assistance in Somalia, representing 43 percent of the total population and a 77 percent increase since January 2008. The combined effects of consecutive seasons of failed or poor rainfall, continuing conflict, rising inflation, massive displacement, and diarrheal disease outbreaks have severely exacerbated food insecurity and resulted in a significant increase in acute malnutrition rates, according to the 2009 U.N. Consolidated Appeals Process for Somalia. U.N. and partner agencies are coordinating efforts to improve access, but insecurity and targeted attacks against relief staff hinder the provision of emergency assistance to affected populations.

On October 31, 2008, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Michael E. Ranneberger redeclared a disaster in Somalia due to the complex emergency. To date in FY 2009, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$149 million for humanitarian assistance programs in Somalia, including more than \$9 million in USAID/OFDA funding to support agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Total Population in Need of Emergency Assistance</b>	3.2 million	FSNAU – January 2009
<b>IDPs since February 2007</b>	1,288,288	UNHCR <sup>1</sup> – March 2009
<b>Long-Term IDPs</b>	275,000	FSNAU – January 2009
<b>Somali Refugees in East and Central Africa</b>	498,820	UNHCR – May 2009

### **FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Somalia</b> .....	<b>\$9,136,906</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Somalia</b> .....	<b>\$124,249,000</b>
<b>State/PRM<sup>3</sup> Assistance to Somalia</b> .....	<b>\$16,000,000</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia</b> .....	<b>\$149,385,906</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Ongoing fighting between TFG forces and armed militia groups in Mogadishu and surrounding areas since May 7 continues to result in increasing levels of population displacement and decreasing humanitarian access to affected populations. Including individuals displaced prior to May 2009, the U.N. estimates that approximately 1.3 million IDPs currently reside within Somalia. While the majority of violence has occurred in Mogadishu, FSNAU reports that fighting has spread

to areas in southern and central Somalia, leading to increased insecurity, renewed large-scale population displacement, destruction of livelihood assets, and disruptions to economic activities and trade.

At the same time, the USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports below-normal and erratic April to July 2009 *gu* rains, contributing to water and pasture shortages and

<sup>1</sup> Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

intensifying drought conditions in central regions and northern pastoral areas of the country. Combined with several consecutive seasons of below-average rainfall, current conditions have resulted in decreased livestock productivity and value, threatening food security and livelihoods for more than 700,000 pastoralists, as well as a significant number of urban households, according to FEWS NET.

USAID/OFDA staff members continue to monitor conditions and address evolving needs resulting from the drought and food security crisis, in addition to facilitating coordination and information sharing among international relief organizations.

### **Security and Access**

Insecurity and targeted attacks against aid workers continue to hamper humanitarian access and the delivery of assistance to IDPs and conflict-affected populations. Throughout June and early July, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported intense fighting in Mogadishu and surrounding areas.

As a result of deteriorating security conditions, the U.N. has increased the security threat level for Mogadishu; Marka District in Lower Shebelle Region; Afgooye, Balcad, and Jowhar districts in Middle Shebelle Region; and Kismaayo and Badhade districts in Lower Juba Region from Phase IV to Phase V, limiting U.N. activity in affected areas. According to OCHA, insecurity and lack of access has restricted water trucking to Karan District in northern Mogadishu and led to the suspension of 16 wet feeding sites in the capital for the first time since November 2007. As of July 13, the wet feeding sites, which provided at least 80,000 people with hot meals daily, remained closed.

During June, unknown militia groups targeted several U.N. agency and non-governmental organization (NGO) premises throughout Somalia, looting offices, stealing personal documents, and assuming control of warehouses containing humanitarian resources. According to OCHA, on June 22, armed militias assumed control of the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) compound in Marka District, Lower Shebelle Region, representing the second time armed militia have taken control of the compound since December 2008. In May, armed militia also raided and looted the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) warehouse in Jowhar District, Middle Shebelle Region, resulting in significant property loss, the destruction of most of UNICEF's immunization cold chain, and the theft of food and nutrition commodities. At present, both facilities remain under armed militia control.

On June 25, OCHA reported the release of an NGO worker abducted on June 16. As of June 30, assailants had abducted seven humanitarian workers since January 2009 and 16 of the 26 aid workers abducted

during 2008 remained in captivity, according to OCHA.

### **Population Movements**

During June, heightened conflict between TFG forces and armed militias in Mogadishu resulted in new internal displacement. According to UNHCR increased fighting displaced nearly 211,000 people from May 7 to July 10. Of the total, approximately 57,000 individuals moved to areas along the Afgooye corridor adjacent to the capital, joining the more than 400,000 IDPs residing in the area since 2007. In addition, approximately 62,000 IDPs moved to safer areas in Mogadishu and 92,000 others fled to more distant locations in Galgadud, Middle Shabelle, and Lower Shabelle regions. However, due to increased fighting in locations previously considered safe, U.N. agencies note a fluid IDP situation, with new outbreaks of fighting resulting in the displacement of some individuals for the second or third time. In collaboration with NGO partners, UNICEF is distributing emergency relief supplies to approximately 47,000 people displaced in and around Mogadishu.

In addition to internal displacement, insecurity continues to contribute to increased population movement to neighboring countries. UNHCR reports that a combination of conflict in Mogadishu, insecurity in southern Somalia, and increasing food insecurity in southwestern Somalia has resulted in an estimated 200 new Somali refugees crossing into Kenya daily.

U.N. agencies and NGOs continue to express concern regarding humanitarian conditions and the potential for disease outbreaks in the Dadaab refugee complex in the North Eastern Province of Kenya due to overcrowding and associated strain on limited basic services. As of July 1, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) had reported six confirmed measles cases and 19 suspected cases in the Dadaab complex. In response, IRC plans to launch an emergency measles vaccination campaign targeting children under five years of age with vaccinations and vitamin A supplements. As of July 5, the Dadaab complex hosted more than 284,000 individuals, significantly above the camp's intended capacity of 90,000 people.

To date in FY 2009, State/PRM has contributed nearly \$9 million in earmarked funding to support Somali refugees in Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Yemen, as well as \$16 million for UNHCR and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) operations within Somalia.

### **Agriculture and Food Security**

In June, FEWS NET reported intensifying drought conditions in central and northern pastoral regions of Somalia due to poor and erratic *gu* rains and previous rain failure. According to FEWS NET, central and northern pastoral regions received between 20 and 40

percent of normal rainfall for the April to June period. As a result, FEWS NET expects current water and pasture shortages to continue until the onset of the November rainy season. According to FEWS NET, *gu* rains performed poorly or completely failed in Hiran, Mudug, Galgadud, Nugal, and Sool regions, as well as parts of Sanaag and Togdheer regions.

The cumulative effects of four consecutive seasons of below-average rainfall and limited water and pasture availability have led to poor livestock body conditions and declining livestock reproduction rates in northern pastoral areas, negatively affecting food security among poor pastoralists who depend on the sale of livestock and livestock products for 45 to 60 percent of annual household income, according to FEWS NET.

Due to adequate performance of *gu* rains in southern agricultural areas, FEWS NET projects a fair *gu* harvest in most areas of southern Somalia. However, FEWS NET notes poor and sporadic rains in parts of Bakool, Lower Juba, and Middle Juba regions, as well as most of Gedo Region, resulting in poor crop germination and possible below-average crop performance in affected areas.

High prices also continue to negatively affect food access and increase food insecurity throughout Somalia. Although FSNAU reported moderate food price declines in 2009, prices remain significantly above long-term averages. In June, FSNAU reported local cereal prices 40 to 60 percent lower than the same time period in 2008 in southern regions of Somalia. However, FEWS NET reports that continuing sea piracy could reduce imports in the coming months, slowing or reversing positive food price trends.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.1 million to support agriculture and food security programs in Somalia, including animal health interventions in pastoral areas intended to safeguard livelihood assets.

### **Health and Nutrition**

Recent nutrition surveys highlight emergency levels of acute malnutrition throughout Somalia due to deteriorating food security, population displacement, disease outbreaks, and a lack of basic social services. According to FSNAU, seven nutrition assessments conducted in May confirmed severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates above the emergency threshold of 1 percent in several areas in central and northern Somalia. FSNAU reported the most significant SAM rates in western pastoral areas of Galgadud, Mudug, and Nugal regions, as well as northwest pastoral regions, with SAM rates averaging 5.5 percent. FSNAU also reported critical nutrition conditions in eastern pastoral areas of Galgadud, Mudug, and Nugal regions and agro-pastoral areas of Mudug, Galgadud,

and Middle Shabelle regions, with SAM rates averaging 2.6 and 3.8 percent, respectively.

In July, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reported ongoing efforts to respond to increased measles cases in Galgadud Region. As of July 6, MSF reported treating more than 400 individuals for measles-related complications in Guri El town and surrounding areas in Galgadud Region.

On July 12, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported overcrowded conditions, insufficient water, and poor hygiene and sanitation in hospitals and medical facilities in Mogadishu, increasing the risk of the spread of disease. Exacerbating the situation, WHO reported on July 12 that MSF had closed a pediatric hospital and three health clinics in northern areas of Mogadishu due to insecurity.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.8 million to support health and nutrition activities in Somalia, including programs aimed at improving essential health service provision for vulnerable populations. In addition, FY 2008 USAID/OFDA funding supports ongoing nutrition and health initiatives in Somalia, including programs aimed at mitigating acute malnutrition impacts on children under five years of age and the UNICEF and WHO Child Health Days campaign. As of late June, the Child Health Days campaign had reached more than 1 million children under five years of age and more than 788,000 women of child-bearing age, according to the U.N. Health Cluster.

### **Emergency Food Assistance**

In May, WFP distributed more than 31,000 metric tons (MT) of food to nearly 2 million beneficiaries throughout Somalia. Due to the start of the annual harvest season, WFP has revised food aid interventions to avoid the potential negative impact of food aid on market prices in crop-producing areas. According to a July 9 OCHA report, WFP plans to suspend general food distributions in crop-producing areas of Somalia in August and September and provide half rations to IDPs in the Afgooye corridor and Baidoa District, Bay Region, starting in July. However, WFP notes that ration reductions will not affect wet feeding programs or programs targeting vulnerable individuals, such as pregnant women and malnourished children.

Despite continued international efforts to address sea piracy and ensure the delivery of critical humanitarian assistance to the region, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) reports ongoing ship attacks and hijackings off the coast of Somalia. As of June 12, IMB reported more than 130 piracy incidents in 2009, compared to 111 incidents during all of 2008.

Since 2008, the European Union (EU) has conducted naval escorts for WFP-contracted ships to facilitate the

delivery of food assistance to affected populations in Somalia. On June 26, OCHA reported that 13,600 MT of WFP food arrived safely in Mogadishu under EU naval escort. In early June, the EU agreed to extend the operation until the end of 2010, noting that piracy off the coast of Somalia remains a substantial threat.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided nearly 160,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$124 million, to WFP and CARE for distribution to vulnerable populations.

### **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**

Increased incidence of waterborne diseases remains a concern throughout Somalia due to lack of adequate sanitation and hygiene, as well as insufficient access to safe drinking water and health services. In June, WHO noted increases in acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases

in Lower Juba and Middle Juba regions, primarily among children under five years of age in Kismaayo and Jilib districts. Between May 30 and June 26, WHO received reports of nearly 800 AWD cases from health facilities in Lower Juba and Middle Juba regions, with two AWD-related deaths. According to WHO, AWD cases in the two regions peaked between June 13 and 19 and subsequently began to decline following response and preventative efforts, including public health education and chlorination initiatives.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.2 million to support water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions in Somalia, including programs designed to increase access to safe drinking water among IDPs and reduce the spread of waterborne diseases through hygiene education programs.

## **USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA**

<b>FY 2009</b>			
<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
Horn Relief	Economy and Market Systems, Agriculture and Food Security	Lower Juba Region	\$1,579,817
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
IRC	Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Mudug Region	\$935,472
Medair Swiss	Health, Nutrition, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Togdheer Region	\$523,018
Mercy Corps	Economy and Market Systems, Protection, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Bari Region	\$1,465,850
Mercy USA	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Middle Shabelle Region	\$186,271
WFP	Regional Food Procurement and Distribution	Countrywide	\$1,822,478
WFP	Economy and Market Systems	Countrywide	\$998,500
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$125,500
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$9,136,906</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	136,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$107,925,600
CARE	20,610 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$16,323,400
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$124,249,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
UNHCR	Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
ICRC	Health, Refugee Assistance, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$9,500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$16,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$149,385,906</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 15, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/FFP funding represents actual value of food assistance as of July 15, 2009.